



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man"

UPLAND CRANBERRIES.

In our last number, we copied a somewhat lengthy article from the Journal of Commerce, giving the details of cranberry culture on swampy land, in which some good hints will be found.

Experiments are every year demonstrating that cranberries can be made a profitable crop on moist uplands. At the fair of the State Society in Gardner, some very fine specimens of cranberries were exhibited by Mr. Robert Withee, of Gardner, which he raised on moist upland. His statement relating his mode of cultivation will be published in the transactions of the Society. We last week received some samples of very large cranberries from our neighbor Mr. Benjamin King, of Winthrop, that grew on upland, without any cultivation, more than what they received from nature.

He related to us the following history of them: While mowing in his lot he discovered a small patch of cranberry vines. This was in an upland field of grass, there being no water or boggy land near them. He mowed around them. A year ago this fall he picked from the vines a quart of cranberries. The vines continued to spread among the grass, and this last season he picked four quarts. He, of course, did not mow them down either season, neither has he done any thing to them in the way of cultivation.

If they should continue to increase every year in a quadruple proportion as they have during the past year, Mr. K. will soon have a large supply.

He supposes the seeds were deposited there by birds, as there are no cranberries growing very near to them.

No doubt if he were to thin out the grass from among them they would produce a larger crop, but they seem to be increasing pretty fast and the berries are certainly of good size. We hope the crop will continue to increase, for when they produce well they are more valuable than the hay he could cut there.

AMELIORATION OF CLIMATE.

Can we change our climate? No. Can we modify it? Yes, a little. The clearing up of lands, by cutting away large tracts of forest, has modified the climate of Maine, in one respect. In the older sections of the State, snow does not come so early, nor lay on so late, as at the time of the earliest settlement of the country, yet we do not know that the thermometer indicates about the same range of temperature, excepting, perhaps, it may be higher in summer, in consequence of the sun having more access to lands formerly shaded.

Some remarks by Wilson Flagg, a correspondent of Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture, in regard to obviating the rigors of winter in small or circumscribed localities, such as farms and gardens, are worthy attention. He very truly observes that the north and northeast winds are in New England productive of most cold. Hence, in locating buildings it would be well to have an eye to this fact, and place them, if possible, and no greater inconvenience should arise, on slopes, or places having hills, or swells northward and easterly of the spot. When this cannot be done, and you have the power, leave a wood on these sides, or where this is impossible, set out thick growing trees, such as cedars, spruces, firs, &c., &c., on these sides, to act as screens or shelters. When fully grown, they will present strong barriers to cold winds, and afford you quite an amelioration of climate in the space they shelter.

For the Maine Farmer.

PRUNING APPLE TREES.

Mr. EDITOR.—Having been in the practice of grafting, some thirty years or more, and seeing and knowing the progress of my work from year to year, together with seeing the different management of those for whom I have grafted, and its results, I think I may claim, having seen both the beginning and the end (some from my own lack of skill, but much from the carelessness and, in some cases, I think, willfulness of those for whom I have done the work) of much of my work, either to have gained knowledge, or that it is not to be gained by actual demonstration.

I propose, in this communication, to say a few words about pruning apple trees. I am aware that different persons select different seasons, and each one gives his reasons for his favorite time of year. I, Mr. Editor, prefer the months of November and December, for many reasons. One is, that the stump will remain sound for many years, and the wood will be sound after it is heated over. This no fancy picture. Another is, sap never goes out of the wood. A third, the whole of the sap, when it rises in the spring, will go into the remaining branches, without check or interruption. A fourth, you may walk about in the tree without injuring it by loosening the bark. Fifth, if you take most of the top off, what is left will grow vigorously the next season. Lastly, those who will attend to it at this time of year as well as any other.

Wm. BURNS.

To PRESERVE CATTLE FROM DISEASE IN WINTER. When cattle are kept out in the winter, it is recommended as a useful practice to rub some fat at the root of the horn, which prevents the wet frost getting between the root and the skin, and it is said contributes to preserve the health of the animal, and to keep it free from various diseases to which it may otherwise be liable.

The POTATO, in its native wild of tropical America, is a rank, running vine, with scarcely the appearance of a tuber on its roots.

ICE HOUSES.

No State in the Union is richer in ice during the winter, and we verily believe no State is poorer of it than Maine, during the summer.

This need not be, for we have nothing to do but harvest and preserve the crop,—but how shall it be preserved? Easy enough. Make an ice house and pack it away carefully and properly.

But, says the farmer, I am not able to build an ice house. This is a mistake altogether. Any

man who can build a goose pen can build an ice house.

Any one who can get a few joist and a thousand of hemlock boards, a few pounds of nails some sawdust—old tan, or shavings, or leaves, can have an ice house.

We give below the cut of one.

We have given it to our readers every year for some time past, and we are happy to say that it has been the means of increasing them every year. Some of our new subscribers can take the idea from it and build one for themselves. We know of several that were built from the plan of it, the posts being taken from the wood pile and set into the ground, and the boards were all rough. No shingles on the roof, the boards being put on lapping each other a little. We think the ice keeps better by having the roof not very tight, provided the house be placed in a cool place.

There was a little steam arising from the mass, cool as it is, and it is best to have it escape rather than to have it accumulate. It will rise and pass off through the crevices of the roof.

The roof ought to be tight enough, however, to keep the rains from beating through.

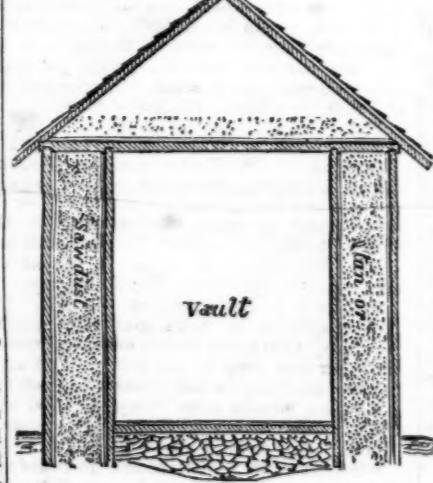
Now if you examine this cut, and read over the description carefully, you will see that you can build one of the best of ice houses yourself.

By doing it and filling it in the winter you will have what will not only prove a luxury to you during the heats of next summer, but will also be useful in a great many domestic operations.

In filling the house be sure and put in good solid black ice as some call it, and not the porous kind. This last is half full of air which will prevent its keeping well, besides where you pack away so much air it is course pack away less ice.

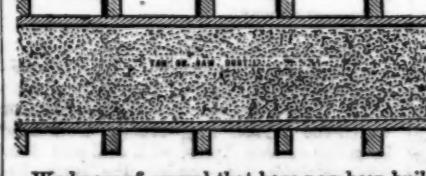
In packing ice make the whole mass as solid as you can. The very joinings where the blocks come together should be filled with ice if you can, in order to keep out air.

A little observation and experience will soon enable you to do this business right. Here is your ice house:



It is made by setting four posts in the ground, nailing boards on each side, and filling the interstices with saw dust, shavings, spent tan or some such material. The whole is made of rough boards, and is found to answer the purpose completely.

This cut shows the mode of filling between the sides of the house.



We know of several that have now been built some years, and have been filled every winter, and bid fair to last ten or a dozen years longer.

It will cost but comparatively little to construct one, and every farmer will find the time and expense of building and filling well invested in the additional amount of comfort and useful aid which ice will afford him during summer.

Mr. E. Marks, in the Rural New Yorker, gives the following directions for making a small ice house, which is pretty much on the same plan as the above, though perhaps not so durable:

Make a box eight feet square, by nailing hemlock poplars which are two inches thick, on hemlock scantling. Let one side of the box be seven feet high, and the side directly opposite ten feet high. This gives a roof eight feet long, with a slant of three feet.

It is well to have the roof boards extend over the sides of the box. Double boarding with hemlock makes a sufficient roof. Set this box on the top of the ground, in a dry and shady place where surface water will not accumulate. No planks are needed on the bottom of the box, but sawdust must be placed on the ground inside the box, to the depth of one foot, and over this place loose boards for the ice to lie upon. Cut the boxes of ice six feet square, and build a tower of ice six feet square in the centre of your box, (or ice house, we will now call it,) by laying the cakes compactly together, filling all crevices with sawdust as you proceed.

We have now a cube of ice, with a space all around, between the ice and planks. Fill this space with sawdust, and cover the top of the ice with the same, eighteen inches deep, and you have ice enough secured to last a family through the season. The upper three feet of the side which is ten feet high should not be boarded up, but left for ventilation, and a place of access to the ice, and this aperture may be enlarged as convenience may require, while using the ice, and for more conveniently filling in. About eight hundred feet of lumber will be required, and the merest tyro in the use of

tools can make it. Fresh sawdust is best, but it may be used a second winter. The dust can be washed from the ice at the time of using."

A PLEA FOR THE LOMBARDY POPLAR.

We go in, heart and soul, with friend Allen for the Lombardy poplar. He thus discourses about them in the Horticulturist. It was one of the first trees that attracted our attention when a mere child, and we have grieved to see them so cruelly exterminated as they have been of late.

We copy the remarks below, and hope that they will be the means of saving some of them from utter extermination from off the face of New England. We spoke for some branches of one, this last fall, to be put down in the spring. The owner said he would thank us to take the whole tree out of his sight. They were once a great favorite with our ancestors, perhaps too much so, but the present generation have got on the other extreme in regard to them.

LEWIS F. ALLEN.

Blackrock, N. Y., 1855.

With regard to this tree, we can just remember that there was an outcry against it, because it was believed to be infested with the "poplar worm," supposed to be poisonous, we believe unjustly so. Fashion has undoubtedly done the dead, and fashion, in due time, will restore it to its true use, as it has done the hollyhock, tabacco, and Woodsward made it again a favorite. It is a rule in the composition of landscape, that all horizontal lines should be balanced and supported by perpendicular ones; hence the Lombardy poplar becomes of great importance in scenery when contrasted with round-headed trees. It is admitted by all writers on the material sublime, from Burke to Dugald Stewart, that gradually tapering objects of great height create the effect of sublimity. These trees may be advantageously planted wherever there is a continuance of horizontal lines, but they should be so arranged as to form a part of those lines, and to seem to grow out of them rather than to break or oppose them in too abrupt a manner. In the case of a stable or other agricultural building, where the principal mass extends in length, rather than in height, it would be wrong to plant Lombardy poplars, or other tall fastigate trees immediately before the building, but they will have a good effect when placed at the sides, or behind it.

Such trees (fastigate) should appear in all plantations and belts that are made with a view to picturesque effect, but it is a most dangerous tree to be employed by a planter who has not considerable knowledge and good taste in the composition of landscape. It would make an excellent shelter on the prairies; for a screen from the winds it should be planted close, and the top cut off annually. Its rapidity of growth renders it suitable to half-screen a too staring open view where it is desired to look under the branches. Along the sides of lakes lengthened and pleasing reflections are produced, which, breaking the horizontal gleam of light, not only produce variety and richness, but, by increasing the length of the perpendicular lines formed by the poplars, confer a degree of sublimity on the picture.

EO. HORT.

For the Maine Farmer.

LABOR MISDIRECTED.

The most superficial observer cannot fail to have perceived at times, the truth of the adage, that some men will thrive where others would starve. In no class is this fact more apparent than among farmers. The reason why there are so many thrifless farmers, lies not so much in their lack of industry, as in the lack of perception and calculation,—perception of the means necessary to produce a given result, with the least possible expenditure of force.

It is now the twelfth day of November. The soft haze of our Indian summer has been floating around us for a week. One after another the yellow, red, and russet leaves from the various trees in the lawn and adjacent forests, have fallen silently to the ground, and left their limbs bare as in mid-winter; while from the window at which I sit, looking out upon the clear, sweeping Niagara, and on to the opposite Canada shore, keeping guard over the cheerful, white-painted dwellings behind them, in with the golden willow, stand hundreds of beautiful Lombardy poplars for miles along, still glowering in the soft yellow tints of their full leafy tops, and cheering up with life and beauty a most delightful landscape. How gracefully, too, they throw their long shadows into the clear water with the sunshine. Yet fashion—capricious, sensless, fussy fashion, calls them vulgar. Not so do I. Spite of fashion, with its caprice and nonsense, the Lombardy poplar is still a graceful, beautiful tree. And I'll tell you why. Not in stiff, formal rows, like a line of grenadiers with shouldered arms, guarding an outpost; in naked, stark-like regularity lining an avenue; but shooting up with life and heads here and there among other trees, like the tall spires of churches among wide blocks of houses, giving variety, point, and character to a landscape.

We know of some farmers who toil with the most indefatigable industry from year to year, and yet they remain as thrifless as ever. The fact is, their labors are misdirected. They take everything the hardest way. They are sure to do two days' work to accomplish every job, where a little calculation, a little figuring, a little counting of the cost, one day's exertion performed in the right way, would have done the job.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.



AUGUSTA:
THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1855.

COMMENCEMENT OF THIS VOLUME.

With this number we commence the 24th volume of the *Maine Farmer*, relying as we have heretofore done, upon a kind Providence and the farmers of Maine, for aid and assistance to conduct and make it useful during the coming year.

This reliance has never, as yet, been misplaced, and to both we are under great obligations. In opening a new volume, we propose to renew our labors and exertions to place before our readers matter connected with their business, which shall be of practical service to them in that business. We shall use every means in our power, not only to "keep up with the times," as the saying is, but to post our readers along also, and to aid them in every way to all the new current knowledge of the day, touching agricultural and industrial subjects that shall come within our reach. By way of illustrations, arrangements have been made, by which we shall as often as once in two or three weeks, give a handsome engraving of some animal or some new machine, valuable for its aid in the saving of labor in some of the pursuits of life. Among other things, we shall give cuts or portraits of many of the prize animals exhibited at the late United States Show and Fair at Boston.

These alone, will form a very interesting collection, and make our readers acquainted with the appearance, good points, and many of the characteristics of the best breeds of animals now in the United States. To meet these increased expenses, we have faith that our agricultural brethren will be very willing to continue their help, not only by a continuance of their subscriptions, but by influencing their friends and neighbors, who have not yet found it convenient to give us that "material aid" so necessary to publishers. This faith has heretofore been responded to in as great a degree as it was reasonable to expect. An increasing faith in the accomplishment of the high purposes which all the friends of agricultural improvement aim at and desire, stimulates and sustains us in our labors. Though much remains to be done, it is cheering and encouraging to realize that good progress has been made in what may be called the beginning. It is something, indeed a good step to know definitely and clearly our needs,—to realize wherein we are most lacking. This well understood, will induce us to take the right steps to supply our wants in the best and most permanent manner. Hence the study and the labor of so many active minds among us. They have become informed and satisfied in their own minds of what is needed to render the pursuits of agriculture more profitable, and their toil more effective. They find that the laws of chemistry, of physiology, and mechanical philosophy, are all called into action in the different departments of their profession, and the discussion now with them is, how shall the known laws be best applied to our advantage? How shall they most economically and permanently be made known to others? How shall the laws hitherto undiscovered be developed? Patient labor, untiring research, and continued investigation are required, and an adoption of the best modes of putting these requisites into productive action, is a great desideratum of the present day, among the productive classes. Agricultural publications are part of the machinery for doing this. They form the record-book at least—the journal or log-book, in which are found the history of what has been done, and the amount of progress of the voyage thus far. They also act as heralds to proclaim the facts to the world, and to make known to all who will listen to their voices, the true state of things.

The better, therefore, they are sustained, the more active will they become, and the more active they are, the greater will be the beneficial results of that action. This is a matter which directly or indirectly concerns every individual, and we leave it to each one to say what he can consistently do in order to discharge his part of the labor of life, which this devolves upon him as useful and consistent member of the great human family.

IMPORTANT WAR RUMOR. The Paris correspondent of the New York Post, gives the following important rumor concerning the evacuation of the Crimea by the allied forces. The next arrival will probably confirm its truth or falsity. He says:

NAVIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, just issued, gives some very important information with regard to the commerce and navigation of the country. We have gathered some items with regard to the ship-building interest, especially in this State, that will prove interesting to our readers.

We find that the total amount of tonnage built in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1855, was 583,450 tons. The total number of vessels was 2024, made up as follows: ships and barges, 381; brigs, 126; schooners, 605; sloops and canal boats, 669; steamers, 243. As usual, Maine heads the list. Her build of tonnage is almost one-half the entire amount built in the Union, being 215,904 tons. The number of vessels built in Maine is 396, as follows: 213 ships and barges; 107 brigs; 68 schooners; 2 sloops; and 6 steamers. This is greatly in advance of any other State, the next on the list being New York, which builds 115,231 tons. The number of vessels built in New York was 45 ships and barges; 7 brigs; 98 schooners; 355 sloops and canal boats; and 48 steamers; total, 554. Massachusetts comes next, building 70 ships and barges; 3 brigs; 39 schooners; 3 sloops, &c.; and 9 steamers; with an aggregate tonnage of 79,069. Pennsylvania builds 44,415 tons; Maryland, 22,524 tons; Ohio, 17,751 tons, (mostly steamers); Connecticut, 14,067 tons; and New Jersey, 10,900 tons. The other States all fall short of 10,000 tons.

The total amount of tonnage built in 1854, was 535,636 tons, and the increase this year is 47,834 tons. In this connection we note a remarkable fact, viz: that of this aggregate increase, Maine claims 47,273 tons, she having increased to that amount over her of the year previous! At the same time, New York has decreased, during the same period, 1,935 tons, and Massachusetts 14,901, and several other States fall off in the amount of shipping built; but Pennsylvania gains 7,647 tons, and Maryland 2,172 tons. Some other States make slight gains.

The chief shipbuilding districts in this State, and their build past year, are as follows:—Bath, 50,929 tons; Waldoborough, 4,678 tons; Portland, 25,800; Passamaquoddy, 17,999; Belfast, 15,343; Wiscasset, 10,493; Frenchman's Bay, 10,398. The others all build less than 10,000 tons each.

During the calendar year 1854, Maine actually built 466 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 257,700 tons, and for the past two years, 1854 and 1855, Maine has built a greater amount of tonnage than the whole build of the United States in 1854, which was 146,018 tons. These statements show the importance of our shipping interests in a striking light. With reference to these same statistics, the "State of Maine" says:—

"What is particularly noticeable in this connection, is the high rate of vessels built in Maine, compared with those of other States. Of the 2024 vessels of all descriptions built in 1855, Maine built 396 in number, showing that we build the very largest class of vessels. Of the 231 ships and barges built in 1855, Maine built 213. A large portion of the tonnage of 257,700 tons, and for the past two years, 1854 and 1855, Maine has built a greater amount of tonnage than the whole build of the United States in 1854, which was 146,018 tons. These statements show the importance of our shipping interests in a striking light. With reference to these same statistics, the "State of Maine" says:—

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Muse.

CHRISTMAS.

BY FRANCIS E. BROWNE.

Welcome! sweet season of the year
To every Christian nation dear;
Let every voice loud carols sing,
To Christ, the universal King,
And celebrate his wondrous birth,
Who came to bless this sinful earth.
O, let his name be echoed round,
Where'er a Christian voice is found,
Whether New England's favored shore,
Or where Christian realms reigned of old,
In rounds of beef, plum pudding rare,
Old England's hospitable fare.

Parents and children then would meet,
And all partake the annual treat;
Nor were the children of the poor
Turned empty from the rich man's door;
But rich and poor, and old and young,
Echoed old Christmas' praise along.

The holly gleamed from every wall,
The cottage or the castle hall;
The kiss was snatched in sportive glee,
Beneath the bush, and yielded free;
And Christmas boxes, Christmas cheer,
Proclaimed the swiftly passing year.

But years fly fast, and such will seem;
When gone, but as a vanished dream;
Dear youth, then spend this season so
That memory never cause thee woe;
And join with us in the good old cheer—
A true merry Christmas and happy new year.

VERSES ON CHRISTMAS.

BY WORDSWORTH.

The minstrels played their Christmas tune,
To-night beneath my cottage eaves,
While, smitten by the loofy moon,
The encircling fauns, thick with leaves,
Gave back a rich and dazzling sheen,
That overpowered their natural green.

Through hill and valley every breeze
Had sunk to rest with folded wings;

Keen was the air but could not freeze
Nor check the music of their strings;

So stout and hardy were the band
That scraped the chords with strenuous hand.

And who but listed—ill was paid
Respect to every inmate's claim;

The greeting given, the music played,
In honor of each household name,

Did yon with lusty call,
And "Merry Christmas" wished to all!

O, brother! I revere the choice
That took these from thy native hills;

And it is given there to rejoice,

Though public care full often tills
(Heaven only witness of the toil)

A barren and ungrateful soil.

Yet would that, with me and mine,
Hadst thou this, our never-failing rice;

And seen on other faces shine
A true revival of the light

Which nature and these rustic Powers,
In simple childhood, spread on ours.

For pleasure hath not ceased to wait

On these expected annual rounds,

Whether the rich man's sumptuous gate

Call forth the snobolike sounds,

Or they are offered at the door

That guards the dwelling of the poor.

How touching, when at midnight sweep

Snow-muffled winds, and all is dark,

To hear— and sink again to sleep!

Or, at an earlier call, to mark,

By blazing fire, the still suspense

Of self-complacent innocence.

The mutual nod—the grave disguise

Of hearts with gladness brimming o'er;

For names once heard, and hear no more;

Tears frightened by the serenade,

Where there survive, of wholesome laws;

Remants of love whose modest sense

Thus into narrow room withdraws;

Hail, Usages of pristine mould,

And ye, that guard them, Mountain old!

The Story-Teller.

From Arthur's Home Gazette.

CHRISTMAS AT MR. BROWN'S.

BY T. S. ARTHUR.

"How many days to Christmas, papa?" inquired an earnest little voice, as a pair of soft hands were pressed fondly against the cheeks of Mr. Brown.

"Just ten days," answered Mr. Brown, but not in tones of equal interest.

"Ten days! Oh, that is a long time! I wish it was to-morrow."

"You do!"

"Yes, indeed, papa. Ten days—that's more than a week, isn't it?"

"Yes, three days more than a week."

"Well, I wish it was to-morrow."

"Why so soon, pretty?"

"Don't you know it?" And the child smiled archly in her father's face.

"How should I know?" said Mr. Brown.

"Don't you know why I wish to-morrow was Christmas? I guess mother knows; don't you, mother?"

Mr. Brown smiled lovingly upon her little one—the youngest and dearest of her flock—Just then the two older children came into the room.

"Don't you wish to-morrow was Christmas, Fanny?—and don't you, too, John?" inquired the child.

"Don't I, Maggy?" answered John, a merry smile playing over his countenance. "Yes, indeed! But it isn't to-morrow, and wishing won't do any good."

"It's only ten days off," said Fanny, quietly. "A little more than a week, and Christmas will be here."

"And then!" chimed in Fanny.

"But, from some cause, the subject was not agreeable to Mr. Brown, as was evident in the gravity of his manner. This the children were slow to see, and it cooled their enthusiasm. Silence followed. In a little while Maggy slipped down from her father's knee, and drew quietly to her mother's side, from whence she looked at her father with stilted glances, half timidly and half wonderingly. Somehow, this reference to Christmas was not agreeable to Mr. Brown, and the children perceived it.

The evening passed without further remark on the coming festive season; yet not without thoughts of it in every mind—in fact, little else was thought of either by Mr. and Mrs. Brown, or the children. After the latter had retired for the night, Mr. Brown said:

"I am really troubled about this matter of Christmas presents, Mary; it does seem such a waste of money. Last year it didn't cost me less than fifty dollars, and what good came of it all?"

Mrs. Brown looked earnestly at her husband, sighed, but made no answer. Her heart was with her little ones; and the thought of their being disappointed in their childish hopes threw a cloud over her spirits.

"I'm not rich," continued Mr. Brown; "but even if I were, I couldn't feel right about the matter if I spent fifty dollars uselessly."

"Unusually?" said Mrs. Brown, in a tone of inquiry that implied a doubt as to the fairness of her husband's conclusion.

"What good came of all our waste of money in Christmas presents last year?"

"We made the children happy, for one thing," replied Mrs. Brown, "and you'll own there was good in that—money spent in procuring happiness for any one, can hardly be called money wasted."

"Present pleasure is sometimes bought at the price of future unhappiness," said Mr. Brown.

"True," returned his wife, "but how the remark applies here I do not so plainly perceive."

"You see the children have set their hearts on a repetition of the same extravagance this year. Now, it does not seem right to me to spend money in this way. If I do not, they will be disappointed and unhappy. So, the pleasure conferred last year, will be the cause of pain now."

Mrs. Brown was silent. Not that she felt the force of what her husband said. Her heart was with her little ones, and the thought of their disappointment troubled her spirits; and for him, to something of the old interest in their anticipated Christmas presents.

But even Mrs. Brown could frame an answer, a lady friend, who had just called, entered the room where they were still sitting at the breakfast table. She was an intimate friend and neighbor, and came in thus early without ceremony, and with only a brief apology for the intrusion.

"I've run in a moment," said she, speaking earnestly, "to tell you about poor Mr. Elkhart, who you ought to love him, for he is one of the best of fathers," said Mrs. Brown.

"I wonder what he will buy us!" remarked John, a little while afterwards, as his mind came back from thoughts of his father's love for him, to something of the old interest in the intruder.

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"I made up my mind last year," said Mr. Brown, "that I would never waste as much money again. Fifty dollars, in China dolls, jumping jacks, sugar toys, and such like tomfooleries, was a wicked waste; and so much real waste and wantall around us. It kept me awake a good many hours thinking about it, and I have not believed the children were any happier in the end."

"They had too many incongruous things, I will admit," answered Mrs. Brown, "too much to divide the attention and dissipate the interest that ought to have been pleasantly concentrated. But you must remember, husband, that you went to an auction and bought twenty-five dollars worth of assorted Christmas goods—at a single purchase—enough to set up a small toyshop."

Mr. Brown shrugged his shoulders, saying: "Oh! that is bad," answered Mrs. Brown. "He has so many little ones dependent on him. What will they do?"

"I've just come from there," said the neighbor. "Ah! it's a sight to make the heart ache. Mrs. Elkhart's baby is only two weeks old; and she is still too feeble to hold it. One leg and one arm are broken; and they say he has had internal injuries. Poor man! What will his family do?"

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"Then she shall have it," said the little girl, firmly. "She does not get many nice playthings, and now that her poor father hurt so badly, and cannot work and earn money, I don't believe she will have a single Christmas gift. Yes, indeed, she will have a single Christmas gift."

"If I want to, Fanny," said John.

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